

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02024 071453Z
ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5146

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINR, HA
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORT: ALBERT CHARLOT, HAITI'S NEW MINISTER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

1. AT 47 ALBERT CHARLOT IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE FOUR NEW CABINET MEMBERS NAMED BY PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER ON MAY 28, 1977. HE BRINGS TO HIS NEW POST AS MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY THE EXPERIENCE OF NEARLY 20 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET.

2. CHARLOT WAS BORN MAY 20, 1930 IN ARCAHAIE. WE HAVE FEW DETAILS ABOUT HIS EDUCATION OR EARLY CAREER BUT HE MAY HAVE A LAW DEGREE IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC TRAINING. HE HAS STUDIED AT BOTH THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO (MAYAGUEZ) AND AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. CHARLOT HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET, A POSITION WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SINCE 1957 -- I.E., FOR THE ENTIRE SPAN OF DUVALIERIST RULE IN HAITI. HE HAS FREQUENTLY PARTICIPATED IN HAITIAN DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GATHERINGS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE IMF. HE IS AN ACTIVE ROTARIAN AND HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PETIIONVILLE ROTARY CLUB.

3. CHARLOT WAS CHARACTERIZED IN 1973 BY ONE OF HIS PREDECESSORS AT COMMERCE AS "INTELLIGENT, EXPERIENCED, COMPETENT AND COMPLETELY HONEST." AT THAT TIME HE WAS
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RECOMMENDED FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT THE JOB WENT TO THE CURRENT MINISTER, EMMANUEL BROS. A LEADING LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, WHO IS A GOOD FRIEND OF CHARLOT, SECONDS THE EARLIER CHARACTERIZATION AND PREDICTS CHARLOT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE OTHER NEW APPOINTEES BERROUET AND SAINT-COME, AS WELL AS WITH

BROS.

4. DURING AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL JUNE 6, CHARLOT SPOKE WARMLY "AS A CITIZEN AND AS A MINISTER" ABOUT HAITIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION, FRIENDSHIP AND WORKING TOGETHER. CHARLOT ALSO SAID HIS PAST EXPERIENCE IN FINANCE WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM COMMERCE AND HE WOULD HAVE TO STUDY CAREFULLY HIS RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE TAKING ANY NEW INITIATIVES.

5. CHARLOT IS OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, ABOUT 5'8", AND DARK-SKINNED AS IS HIS WIFE. THEY HAVE A SON BORN IN 1954 AND TWIN DAUGHTERS BORN IN FEBRUARY 1970. THERE MAY BE OTHER CHILDREN AS WELL. CHARLOT SPEAKS ENGLISH, SPANISH AND GERMAN IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIVE CREOLE AND FRENCH. ISHAM

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